

Comparison of Programs

SFSP/Seamless Waiver/Simplified SFSP/NSLP

The purpose of the seamless waiver is to encourage more School Food Authorities (SFAs) to provide meals in the summer and other times when school is not in session. The seamless waiver combines features of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). By replacing most of the SFSP rules, the waiver reduces paperwork and administrative burden, making it easier for SFAs to feed children in low-income areas during the summer months or during the extended breaks of a year-round school schedule.

This side-by-side comparison of the Programs serves to highlight the similarities between the seamless waiver, SFSP and NSLP/SBP.

Topic	SFSP	Seamless Waiver	Simplified SFSP	NSLP/SBP
Times of Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May – September for traditional school calendar areas • October-April during unanticipated school closures (i.e. emergencies) • During student vacations for schools on a continuous year calendar 	Same as SFSP	Same as SFSP	When school is in session as established by the school district, including summer school.
Meal Service Locations	Camps Churches	Same as SFSP	Same as SFSP	Schools Residential Child Care

Comparison of Programs

Topic	SFSP	Seamless Waiver	Simplified SFSP	NSLP/SBP
Meal Service Locations	Community Centers Housing projects Libraries Migrant centers Parks Playgrounds Pools Schools			Institutions (RCCI's)
Meal Cost for Children	<p>All meals are free*</p> <p>*(Although camps are only reimbursed for children who qualify for F/RP price meals, camp sponsors may, and usually do, provide meals free of charge to all children)</p> <p>Note: free = F reduced price = RP</p>	Same as SFSP	Same as SFSP	<p>Meal cost (F/RP/paid) for children is based on their income eligibility.</p> <p>Afterschool snacks at area eligible sites are free for all children.</p>
Establishing Site Eligibility	<u>Open sites:</u> 50 % or more of the children in an area qualify for free or reduced price school meals, based	Same as SFSP	Same as SFSP	<u>Schools:</u> Public and private non-profit schools of high school grade and under that are part of State's

Comparison of Programs

Topic	SFSP	Seamless Waiver	Simplified SFSP	NSLP/SBP
Establishing Site Eligibility	<p>on school or census data.</p> <p><u>Enrolled sites:</u> 50 % of household income applications that families submitted are eligible for free or reduced price meals.</p> <p><u>Migrant sites:</u> Certification by a migrant organization that the sites serves children of migrant farm workers.</p> <p><u>Camps:</u> offer a regularly scheduled food service as part of an organized program for enrolled children</p>			<p>education system.</p> <p><u>Afterschool Snacks:</u> District must run the NSLP and sponsor or operate an afterschool care program with educational/enrichment activities.</p> <p><u>Afterschool snack sites in eligible areas:</u> 50 % or more of the children in the attendance area of a school qualify for F/RP school meals, based on school data</p> <p><u>RCCI's:</u> Public and licensed, non-profit, private</p>
Type of Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Lunch • Snack (AM or PM) • Supper 	Same as SFSP	Same as SFSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Lunch • Snack (Afterschool only)

Comparison of Programs

Topic	SFSP	Seamless Waiver	Simplified SFSP	NSLP/SBP
	Except for camp and migrant sites, lunch & supper cannot be reimbursed for the same day by the same site.			
Maximum Number of Meals	2 for most sites 3 for migrant sites and camps	Same as SFSP	Same as SFSP	3
Commodities	\$.015 per meal for public sponsors and self-prep sites (FY 2004) May receive bonus commodities	Same as NSLP	Same as SFSP	\$.1575 per lunch (SY 2003/2004) May receive bonus commodities
Reimbursement Rates	SFSP FY 2007 rates (see attached)	NSLP & SBP free rates (see attached)		NSLP& SBP rates (see attached)

Comparison of Programs

Topic	SFSP	Seamless Waiver	Simplified SFSP	NSLP/SBP
Reimbursement Method	<p>Maximum level for all sites except camps = total meals by type of meal X operating & admin rates.</p> <p>Maximum level for camps = total meals by type for eligible children X operating & admin rates.</p> <p>Final reimbursement = lesser of actual costs or “operating rates x meals” and lowest of budgeted or actual costs or “admin rates x meals”*</p> <p>*Note: the 14 States participating in the Lugar pilot receive maximum reimbursement levels without comparison to costs.</p>	<p>Total meals by type X NSLP/SBP free rate</p> <p>Enhanced NSLP funding including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra \$.02 per lunch if 60% of lunches in second preceding year were F/ RP • Severe need breakfast rate <p>Total afterschool snacks X free rate in eligible areas</p> <p>(No administrative reimbursement provided)</p>	<p>Maximum level for all sites except camps = total meals by type of meal X operating & admin rates.</p> <p>Maximum level for camps = total meals by type for eligible children X operating & admin rates.</p> <p>No program cost comparison is made.</p>	<p>Total meals by type X free, reduced, or paid rate for each type of meal.</p> <p>Extra \$.02 per lunch if 60% of lunches in second preceding year were F/ RP</p> <p>Additional payments for F/RP breakfasts in severe need schools</p> <p>Total afterschool snacks X free rate in eligible areas</p>
Monitoring Required by SFA	Pre-operational visits before a new or problem site operates the summer program.	Review of meal counting, claiming and meal pattern compliance within 3	Same as SFSP	Onsite review of lunch counting and claiming system for each school by Feb. 1 st each year.

Comparison of Programs

Topic	SFSP	Seamless Waiver	Simplified SFSP	NSLP/SBP
	<p>Site visits the first week of operation (waived for experienced SFA sponsors).</p> <p>Site review during first 4 weeks of operation, followed by monitoring.</p>	<p>weeks of start of operations. SA may waive if the site had no problems in the previous summer.</p>		
Monitoring Required by State	<p>Review every 3 years; more frequently based on program size and prior problems identified by the SA.</p>	<p>Coordinated Review Effort (CRE) every 5 years. Must include one seamless site in a CRE review of a SFA participating in the waiver.</p>	<p>Same as SFSP</p>	<p>CRE every 5 years.</p> <p>School Meal Initiative (SMI) review every 5 years to determine how well SFA is meeting the nutrition standards.</p>
Meal Pattern	<p>Meal pattern must meet 7 CFR 225.16(d) standards. However, SFAs may substitute NSLP/SBP meal patterns.</p>	<p>Same as NSLP/SBP</p>	<p>Same as SFSP</p>	<p>Must meet requirement for NSLP menu planning approaches in 7 CFR 210.10; or SBP approaches in 7 CFR 220.8; including those</p>

Comparison of Programs

Topic	SFSP	Seamless Waiver	Simplified SFSP	NSLP/SBP
				based on meal patterns.
Eligible Participants	Persons 18 years or younger and persons 19 or older with a physical or mental disability, as defined by the SA.	Same as SFSP	Same as SFSP	Students enrolled in a school of high school grade and under determined by the SA; including persons enrolled in a school program for the mentally or physically disabled; and persons under 21 enrolled in an RCCI.
Public Notification	Sponsor must send public media notice regarding program and eligibility.	Public media notice may be done but is not required. SFA must state in waiver request how each site (excluding closed enrolled sites) will advertise availability of meals to the neighborhood community.	Same as SFSP	SFA must send public media notice regarding program and letter or notice with an application to parents for all children in attendance at the school at the beginning of each school year.

For additional information go to http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/Policy-Memos/2007/SP_07-2007.pdf.